

39th Year—No. 43

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1953

Seventeen

'Fringe' Tax Law Passes

Bill Could Tax Fringe Dwellers For Services

In a move designed to equalize taxes paid by residents of unincorporated county territory with those paid by their city brethren...

The bill will go into effect on Sept. 10 and permits 10 per cent of the voters or two county supervisors to start action to create a special services area to provide fire, police, park, recreation or other services, and levy taxes.

However, a protest by 10 per cent of the voters would require putting the question to a vote and 50 per cent of the property owners could block the proceedings completely.

The legislation, which followed an assembly interim committee report on fringe area problems in Los Angeles County, was enacted to meet complaints that residents of unincorporated areas were getting a free ride with county-supported services which city residents must pay for.

In anticipation of the day when the bill will become effective, County Supervisor Burton W. Chace this week introduced a motion which was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors, and which stated:

1. The chief administrative officer, county counsel and county engineer shall study carefully the provisions of the law together with the report of the assembly interim committee report and recommend to the Board proper standards respecting municipal type services.

2. Careful consideration shall be given to using the law to reduce administrative costs in connection with municipal type services in the county's unincorporated territory, and with the possibility of using the law as an economical substitute for future overlapping special assessment districts.

3. That the above mentioned officer, counsel and engineer shall confer with the Sheriff, County Fire Warden and Director of Parks Department and other county department heads, so that their recommendations can be included in the report.

4. That the Board of Supervisors shall make it a policy to come to a complete understanding regarding the implementation of the law by working through the special committee created to cooperate with the county division of the League of California Cities and its member cities.

The assembly interim report stated that Torrance has a greater number of customers for sewer service in fringe areas—100, than any other municipality in the entire county.

The report also shows that Torrance has a large "island" of unincorporated territory, called the Victor section, which is bounded by Torrance Blvd. on the south, Del Amo Blvd. on the north, and Hawthorne Ave. on the east, and which is surrounded on three sides by the City of Torrance.

The report states that these "islands," too small for separate incorporation, all are dependent on outside sources for municipal services, such as police and fire protection.

The largest expense to the general taxpayer, the report continues, is for the cost of the service provided by county departments, since city-provided services to these "islands" are few.

Opponents of the new county service law have said that it deprives residents of special districts of self-government, and gives county supervisors too much power.

Commercial Zone Ok'd

The City Council Tuesday night approved a recommendation of the Planning Commission that a tract of land at Crenshaw Blvd. and Highway 101 be zoned for commercial purposes.



HE SHOWS 'EM . . . Jack Wilson, a meterman at the General Petroleum refinery here, shows his family where he works, during the refinery open house Saturday.

G. P. Hosts 5000 at Refinery Open House

More than 5000 persons which included employees and their families, visited the General Petroleum Corp. refinery here Saturday during an open house hosted by A. E. Thompson, refinery manager.

The visitors were conducted on a tour of the three major buildings at the refinery, the administration, the industrial relations, and change room facilities and shown the major units of the refinery proper.

Fourteen buses were used to transport the visitors around the plant's acreage. An engineer using a public address system explained the various uses and functions of the refinery's processing units.

The tours were arranged under the supervision of C. M. Reading, manager of the engineering department which recently transferred headquarters to the Torrance refinery.

Refreshments of hot dogs, cake, ice cream, and coffee were served to all visitors. Souvenirs were given the attending ladies while the children were allowed to puff away on free balloons.

Principal speaker at the services will be the Rev. Melvin Andrews, of the San Pedro Ministerial Association, and Rabbi J. L. Halevi, also of the San Pedro group, will deliver the invocation.

E. P. Benz, president of the Associated Patriotic Societies, will place a wreath on the sepulchral at Green Hills, accompanied by Taps, and an Army firing squad. A benediction will follow, offered by Capt. Albert Dietz, of the Salvation Army.

Flag ceremonies will be presided over by the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

The Mothersingers of Point Fermin PTA will render two vocal numbers as part of the program.

The amount includes everything involved in the outcutter program—land, new building, crossbar switching equipment, automatic accounting equipment, switchboards, telephone instruments, and outside cables and wires.

Listing the step-by-step changes that have been made to establish the new dial system, Manager Richard S. Pyle said that the telephone company:

1. Purchased land, planned and erected a new building to house the equipment.

2. Arranged the manufacture, shipment and installation of dial equipment in the new building.

3. Changed all telephone numbers and added a prefix.

4. Changed all instruments in residences, industries and business establishments here.

5. Rearranged the distribution of outside cable, and made extensive additions of aerial and underground cable.

To introduce dial telephone service here and at the same time to remove from operation the old non-dial system serving Torrance since 1928, Pacific Telephone set the stage back in February 1951.

Ground-breaking ceremonies at that time heralded the start of construction work on the new dial center at 1307 Craven Ave. Civic officials looked on as Mayor Bob Haggard turned the first spadeful of dirt.

The building was completed 10 months later.

The two-story steel frame and reinforced concrete structure was erected by Escherich Brothers, general contractors. It contains nearly 13,500 square feet of floor space and was built at a cost of \$650,000.

EXECUTIONERS . . . Telephone Switchmen Laurence Hines and M. K. MacGugan in new Torrance dial office show how blocking tools will be removed from automatic equipment to put the new system into operation after the non-dial office dies at midnight Saturday.

Tips on Dial Usage Given by Phone Manager

In preparation for the changeover to dial operation here at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, Torrance Telephone Manager R. S. Pyle gave the following tips on dial usage for Fair-fax subscribers:

- 1. Know the correct number to be dialed by consulting the new telephone directory supplement.
2. Wait for the dial tone before calling.
3. Dial each number and let it ring correctly, distinguishing between the numeral "0" and the letter "O," and between the numeral "1" and the letter "L."
4. Let the dial return at its own speed.
5. Dial "113" for information.
6. Dial "114" for telephone repair service.
7. Dial "412" or the operator for the fire department, police, ambulance service, or the sheriff.

Summer School Classes Slated

Thirteen hundred tentative enrollments have been received by the Board of Education for the elementary grades summer school, it was reported this week, and the Board has authorized the formation of summer classes for elementary pupils, plus high school and adult students at all schools where there are sufficient enrollments to maintain them.

Vernon Shebiak, director of adult education, will administer the high school and adult classes and three principals have been employed to supervise the elementary school sessions.

Donald Robison will be in charge of the North Torrance area; Robert Morton will control the central Torrance section; and Earl Baker will supervise classes in South Torrance.

Elementary school activities will include reading, arithmetic, language, music, art and physical activities. Each class will build its program around the needs of the pupils in the group.

For high school students, classes are planned in English, social studies, and typing. A variety of offerings are open to adults in the evening hours at the high school.

Elementary classes have been divided as follows: six classes at Torrance Elementary; six at Fern Ave.; three at Madrona; six at North Torrance; four at Perry; two at Crenshaw; five at Seaside; four at Riviera; and four at Waltham.

New Dial Service Costs \$1,700,000

It cost Pacific Telephone \$1,700,000 to bring dial telephone service to Torrance.

The amount includes everything involved in the outcutter program—land, new building, crossbar switching equipment, automatic accounting equipment, switchboards, telephone instruments, and outside cables and wires.

Listing the step-by-step changes that have been made to establish the new dial system, Manager Richard S. Pyle said that the telephone company:

1. Purchased land, planned and erected a new building to house the equipment.

2. Arranged the manufacture, shipment and installation of dial equipment in the new building.

3. Changed all telephone numbers and added a prefix.

4. Changed all instruments in residences, industries and business establishments here.

5. Rearranged the distribution of outside cable, and made extensive additions of aerial and underground cable.

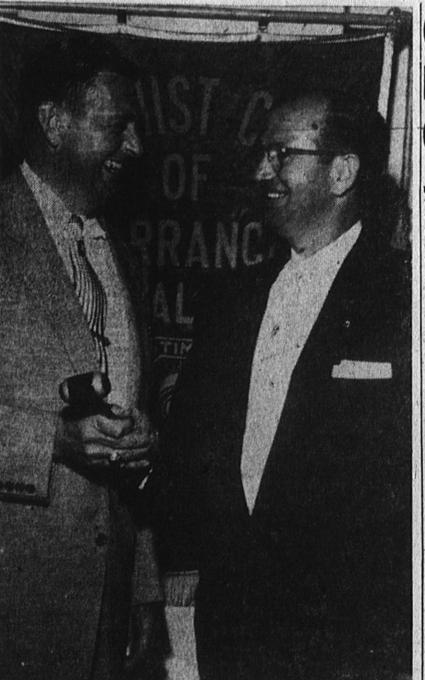
To introduce dial telephone service here and at the same time to remove from operation the old non-dial system serving Torrance since 1928, Pacific Telephone set the stage back in February 1951.

Ground-breaking ceremonies at that time heralded the start of construction work on the new dial center at 1307 Craven Ave. Civic officials looked on as Mayor Bob Haggard turned the first spadeful of dirt.

The building was completed 10 months later.

The two-story steel frame and reinforced concrete structure was erected by Escherich Brothers, general contractors. It contains nearly 13,500 square feet of floor space and was built at a cost of \$650,000.

EXECUTIONERS . . . Telephone Switchmen Laurence Hines and M. K. MacGugan in new Torrance dial office show how blocking tools will be removed from automatic equipment to put the new system into operation after the non-dial office dies at midnight Saturday.



ANCIENT RITE . . . Participating in the ancient rite of "gavel passing," Saturday evening were Chris Soranson (left) newly-inducted president of the Torrance Optimist Club, and outgoing President Forrest G. Meyers. The rites were performed with appropriate ceremonies at a dinner-dance in Hermosa Beach.

Driver of Death Car Due in Court June 9

Arraignment of a 21-year-old Hawthorne youth on manslaughter charges growing out of an accident which claimed the life of a Torrance mother has been set in Superior Court for June 9, following a preliminary hearing in the court of Judge Otto S. Willett Tuesday.

Ordered to appear in Superior Court was Richard George Lenk, of 13805 Yukon Ave., who was released on \$1000 bail following the preliminary hearing in the South Bay Municipal Court.

Lenk was ordered to trial after the death of Mrs. Joanne T. Flynn, of 355 Calle de Andalusia, who was fatally injured in an auto crash in Redondo May 3.

Witnesses said Lenk's vehicle rounded a Riviera turn at high speed just prior to the crash and crossed the double white line to run the car driven by Mrs. Flynn's husband, John.

Five other persons, including Lenk, were injured in the crash. The 24-year-old mother had two children, John, 2, and Patrick, 1. She died in the Harbor General Hospital five hours after the crash in which she sustained a basal skull fracture.

The new contract runs from May 1, 1953 until May 1, 1954.

Furniture drivers, warehousemen, and helpers were given a six-cent an hour increase in wages in an agreement signed this week with Teamsters Local No. 692. The agreement was reached after negotiations between the Harbor Area Employers' Council and the union.

The new rate for drivers is \$74 for a 45-hour week. The new helpers rate is \$71. The 45-hour week is to be worked in five eight-hour days and one five-hour day, either on Saturday or Monday, according to the Employers' Council. The Teamsters had sought a top rate of \$80.

The new contract runs from May 1, 1953 until May 1, 1954.

Plans and specifications for addition to Alondra Park rest-room facilities were approved Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors on motion of Supervisor Burton W. Chace, with June 23 set as the day for opening of bids for award of contract.

Supervisor Chace said that addition to the existing facility will double the present capacity. It will consist of 408 square feet—12 feet by 34 feet. The structure will be a concrete block building with a storage room and water tank to be connected to the existing sewer line, as well as the new rest room.

Checking for a winner in the SPEBSQSA registry which was signed up at the Torrance Flower and Hobby Show over the week-end are (left to right) Red Bundy, of the Torrance Herald, and Barber Shoppers Herb Allen, A. F. Palmer, and Don Cook. They came up with three winners, all guessed within one, the number of items in a jar of junk. A "guess-off" will be staged tonight at the Barber Shoppers regular meeting at the Bettie Thomas Studios, Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw.

JUNK COLLECTORS . . . Checking for a winner in the SPEBSQSA registry which was signed up at the Torrance Flower and Hobby Show over the week-end are (left to right) Red Bundy, of the Torrance Herald, and Barber Shoppers Herb Allen, A. F. Palmer, and Don Cook. They came up with three winners, all guessed within one, the number of items in a jar of junk. A "guess-off" will be staged tonight at the Barber Shoppers regular meeting at the Bettie Thomas Studios, Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw.

G. Lewis To Be Installed Prexy Of Local Demos

Gordon Lewis, secretary treasurer of Local 519 of the oil workers union at General Petroleum, will be installed as president of the Torrance Democrats at an installation dinner to be held Thursday, June 4, at which John Anson Ford, chairman of the county board of supervisors, will be the principal speaker.

Other officers to be installed at the dinner, which will be held at the Alan-Richard Hall (over the Torrance Bowling Alley) at 7:30 p.m., are: Frank Gately,



JOHN ANSON FORD

To Speak To Democrats

vice president, Jess Dean, treasurer (incumbent), Irene Fraser, secretary (incumbent), Pat Nelson, recording secretary, and Lyle O'Hara, Cy Weber, and Rose Sarukian, board members.

Judge John A. Shidler will be installing officer and Glenn M. Anderson, former chairman of the Democratic State Committee, will preside as master of ceremonies.

Reservations, at \$2 per person, can be made by calling Torrance 2297-W, MEnlo 4-6230, or FRontier 5-1276, and must be made by June 1.

Alondra Park Rest Room Addition Plan Approved

Plans and specifications for addition to Alondra Park rest-room facilities were approved Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors on motion of Supervisor Burton W. Chace, with June 23 set as the day for opening of bids for award of contract.

Supervisor Chace said that addition to the existing facility will double the present capacity. It will consist of 408 square feet—12 feet by 34 feet. The structure will be a concrete block building with a storage room and water tank to be connected to the existing sewer line, as well as the new rest room.



JUNK COLLECTORS . . . Checking for a winner in the SPEBSQSA registry which was signed up at the Torrance Flower and Hobby Show over the week-end are (left to right) Red Bundy, of the Torrance Herald, and Barber Shoppers Herb Allen, A. F. Palmer, and Don Cook. They came up with three winners, all guessed within one, the number of items in a jar of junk. A "guess-off" will be staged tonight at the Barber Shoppers regular meeting at the Bettie Thomas Studios, Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw.